

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2491- SB 2666

February 2, 2006

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes veterans with at least a 10% service-connected disability to be exempt from hunting license requirements for three days during the archery season, three days during the muzzleloader season and three days during the rifle season to hunt in a Wildlife Resources Agency Sponsored Hunt.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant/Wildlife Resources Fund

Decrease State Revenues – Exceeds \$100,000/Wildlife Resources Fund

**Other Fiscal Impact – Decrease Federal Funds– Exceeds \$2,500/
Wildlife Resources Fund**

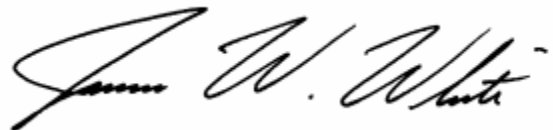
Assumptions:

- Participation level for such veterans will be equal to the participation level of the general public. While some veterans may be unable to participate, it is assumed that due to the demographics of the veteran community, any decreases in participation due to disabilities of the qualifying population will be offset by the increased participation of the group due to the aforementioned demographic factors.
- The sponsored hunts will not be established solely for the veterans but be conducted during times when all licensed residents are eligible to hunt.
- The exemption would apply only to Tennessee residents.
- The cost for a license to hunt during all three seasons is \$108.
- The federal government provides \$9 to the state Wildlife Fund for each license sold.
- According to statistics supplied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 58,471 Tennessee residents would be eligible.
- According to TWRA sales estimates for FY05-06, 6% of the Tennessee population buys a combination hunting and fishing license and 2.1% of the population buys big game licenses.
- The number of eligible veterans estimated to buy a combination hunting and fishing license is $58,471 \times .06 = 3,508$.
- The number of eligible veterans estimated to buy a big game license is $58,471 \times .021 = 1,228$.

- It is assumed that 75% of the eligible veterans that currently buy a combination hunting and fishing license will still do so under the provisions of this bill ($1,228 \times .75 = 921$). Therefore, there will be a 25% reduction in combination licenses sold to these individuals ($1,228 - 921 = 307$). The reduction in state revenues attributable to these individuals is $307 \times \$108 = \$33,156$.
- It is assumed that the balance of eligible individuals (921) will still buy licenses.
- Of this population (921), it is assumed that 5% will still buy the combination license and the big game licenses ($921 \times .05 = 46$). There is no revenue reduction associated with these 46 individuals.
- It is assumed that the remaining population of 875 individuals ($921 - 46 = 875$) will buy a combination license but not the big game license. The reduction in state revenue associated with these individuals is $875 \times (\$108 - \$27) = \$70,875$.
- Cumulatively, the decrease in state revenues to the Wildlife Fund would be $\$70,875 + \$33,156 = \$104,031$.
- The federal revenue loss to the state associated with these individuals would be $307 \times \$9 = \$2,763$.
- There will be a not significant increase in state expenditures to communicate the new law and verify the eligibility of exempt veterans. Such increase can be absorbed utilizing existing agency resources.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director